



Linda S. Adams
*Secretary for
Environmental Protection*

State Water Resources Control Board

Executive Office

Charles R. Hoppin, Chairman
1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 341-5603
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100 • Sacramento, California • 95812-0100
Fax (916) 341-5621 • <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 24, 2010

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
New Jersey & Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dennis Cardoza
U.S. House of Representatives
1224 Longworth House Office Building
New Jersey & Independence Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20515

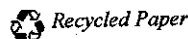
Gentlemen:

Thank you for your June 14 inquiry regarding ammonia and ammonium discharges which originate from the City of Sacramento's municipal waste treatment facility. As I am sure you are both aware, this facility has generated a great deal of interest the past few years related to the issues you raise. It is not my place to speak for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Board), in that they issue the NPDES permit covering the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. However, I am certain they are giving this matter the attention it deserves, including ongoing evaluations by a well-recognized engineering consultant.

The purpose of the engineers' analysis includes studying methodology for interim mitigation during the time period prior to final completion of potential permanent facility updates. This interim activity is critical in that, if the Central Valley Regional Board moves forward with requirements for tertiary treatment, there would realistically be a six- to seven-year timeframe for completion of permanent facility updates.

I would agree with you both that the crisis in the Delta has precipitated an inordinate amount of finger pointing by all sides of the issue. Some of which originates from the lack of a well-defined course of action and some which come from ulterior motives.

California Environmental Protection Agency



The Honorable Jim Costa
The Honorable Dennis Cardoza

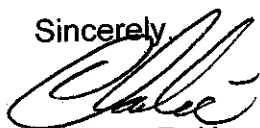
- 2 -

June 24, 2010

I would be less than sincere if I told you as old friends that this issue, in my opinion, was the proverbial smoking gun. It is at least a potentially significant contributor that needs to be fully considered. Please feel free to contact me if either of you has further questions or if my response has not fully addressed your concerns.

Best regards and good fortune in November.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Hoppin
Chairman

cc: Katherine Hart, Chair
Central Valley Regional Water
Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, Suite 200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114